

Fort Midway

An Artists rendition by Bill Whitaker

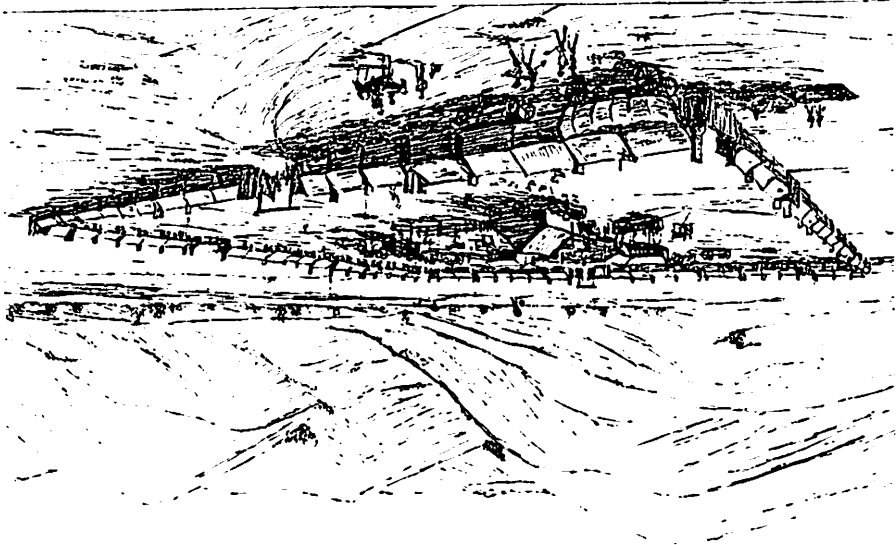
way was soon laid out with a public square in the center and ample city blocks surrounding the square.

Then began the work of "forting in." Around the central square some 75 primitive dirt-roofed log cabins sprang into existence, some abutting against each other, while between others were erected strong panels of upright posts. In this manner an impregnable wall was formed around the square. Small windows were provided at strategic points to serve as portholes in case of attack. Life in the new fort-string was conducted under military law, with officers and picket patrols acting at the call of the bugler, John Watkins.

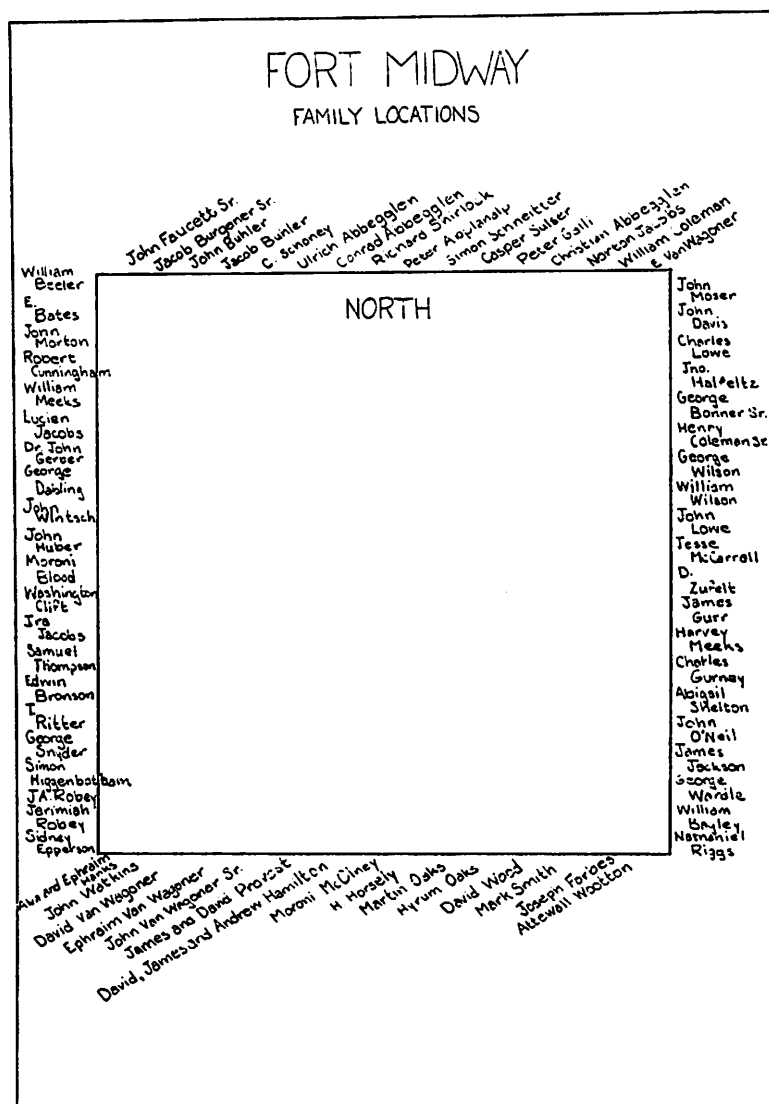
Fort Midway brought to the people a sense of well provided security, and by bringing them close together helped develop a new happiness and community spirit. Fortunately, the fort was never attacked, though the settlers were ready to defend their lives and homes at any time. The fact that the fort was not molested speaks highly of the ability of the pioneers to cooperate in community projects.

The first 75 families in the old fort and their locations are as follows:

From the southwest to the northwest corner: Sidney H. Epperson, Jeremiah Robey, J. A. Robey, Simon Higgenbotham, George Snyder, Thomas Ritter, Edwin Bronson, Samuel Thompson, Ira Jacobs, Washington Clift, Moroni Blood, John Huber, John Wintsch, George Dabling.



An artist's sketch by Bill Whitaker depicting the establishment of Fort Midway in 1866.



A sketch depicting the location of family homes in Fort Midway at its establishment.

Dr. John Gerber, Lucian Jacobs, William Meeks, Robert Cunningham, John Morton, Ezekial Bates, William Beeler.

From the northwest to the northeast corner: John Faucett, Sr., Jacob Burgener Sr., John Buhler, Jacob Buhler, Christian Schoney, Ulrich Abegglen, Conrad Abegglen, Richard Sherlock, Peter Abplanalp, Simon Schneitter, Casper Sulser, Peter Galli, Christian Abegglen, Norton Jacobs, William Coleman and Mrs. Elizabeth Van Wagoner.